Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 28, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 24 with the word "A" and ends on page 29, line 2 with the word "insulator" with the following amended paragraph:

A slurry was prepared according to the procedure described in Example 2 except that the composition was 356 liters of water, 5.7 kg of heat treated ceramic fiber, 1.07 kg of latex ("AIRFLEX 600BP" latex) [[(AIRFLEX 600BP)]], 1.2 kg of a 50% solids aqueous solution of active aluminum sulfate, and 90.7 grams of defoamer ("FOAMASTER III" defoamer) [[(FOAMASTER III)]]. On a dry weight basis (i.e. without water), the composition was 82 weight percent heat treated fiber, 8 weight percent latex, 9 weight percent aluminum sulfate, and 1 weight percent defoamer. A preform was prepared according to the procedure described in Example 3 except that the multi-component forming die had approximately the same dimensions as the outside surface of the inner end cone housing in the end cone region of a pollution control device. A shape-retaining device was used as described in Example 3. The preform was likewise air dried overnight to form an insulator.

On page 29, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 11 with the word "A" and ends on page line 25 with "Table 3" with the following amended paragraph:

A slurry containing 96.2 weight percent water, 2.97 weight percent heat treated ceramic fibers (described in Example 1), 0.24 weight percent sodium aluminate, 0.3 weight percent latex ("AIRFLEX 600BP" latex) [[(AIRFLEX 600BP latex)]], and 0.3 weight percent of a 50% solids aqueous active aluminum sulfate was prepared in a stainless steel mixing tank with an in-line propeller mixer. The slurry contained about [[contained about]] 183.6 l (48.5 gallons) of well water. The sodium aluminate was added with the mixer stirring at medium to high speed. The ceramic fibers were slowly added and the mixer speed was increased to the maximum level to keep the fibers dispersed and break up large fiber clumps. After the fibers were dispersed, the latex was added and mixed for about 5 minutes. Then the aluminum sulfate solution was added slowly, and the slurry was mixed for about 10 minutes until it was uniform. An insulator was made according to the procedure in Example 2. The freestanding insulator was pliable, resilient,

and had a bulk shrinkage of about 4.5%. The insulating material was tested for compressibility at various mount densities and with various basis weights. The results are shown in Table 3.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 3 with the word "An" and ends on page line 8 with "3.2%" with the following amended paragraph:

An insulator is prepared according to the procedure in Example 3 except that the fibers used are those available under the trade designation "CER-WOOL HP" [[Cer-Wool HP fibers available]] from Vesuvius, Buffalo, NY that had been heat treated for 3 minutes at 1060 °C. The fibers are described by the supplier as having a composition of 44 to 49 weight percent Al_2O_3, 50 to 54 weight percent SiO_2, 0 to 0.2 weight percent Fe_2O_3, 0 to 0.1 weight percent TiO_2, and less than 0.5 weight percent of other materials. The fibers had a bulk shrinkage of 3.2%.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 11 with the word "An" and ends on page line 18 with "Safill)" with the following amended paragraph:

An insulator is prepared according to the procedure described in Example 3 except that the fibers used were those available under the trade designation "SNSC" [[are SNSC fibers]] from Shinnika TC (Tokyo, Japan) that were heat treated. The fibers have a composition of about 54 weight percent silica and about 46 weight percent alumina. The fibers were heat treated at 1060 °C and had a bulk shrinkage of 2.6%.

A 28 weight percent SiO_2 and 78 weight percent Al_2O_3 fiber was obtained under the trade designation "MAFTEC MLS" [[AFTEC MLS (obtained)] from Mitsubishi Chemical[[) with 28 weight percent SiO_2 and 78 weight percent Al_2O_3]; and

a fiber obtained under the trade designation "SAFFIL" was obtained from Saffil [[SAFILL LDM (obtained from Safill)]]

On page 32, please replace the table thereon with the following table:

Table 5 – Fiber Shrinkage

Ex	Fiber	Heat treating Time (min)	Bulk Shrinkage (%)
8	"KAOWOOL ZR" fiber [[KAOWOOL ZR]]	3.5	5.2
9	"CER-WOOL HTA" fiber [[CER-WOOL]] HTA	3	7.6
10	"KAOWOOL HP" fiber [[KAOWOOL HP]]	3	2.6
11	"MAFTEC MLS III" fiber [[MAFTEC MLS III]]	0	1.1
12	"SAFFIL LDM" fiber [[SAFFIL LDM]]	0	1.3